Baggage lifiers' gang at cargo terminal of Delhi airport

2486. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA; Will the Minister of CIVIL. AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a baggage lifters' gang at the cargo terminal of Delhi airport was recently, busted which include some employees of IA & Al; and

(b) if so, the details of the action Government propose to take to weed out such employees?

*THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conc3rned employees have bean arrested and police investigation in the matter is in progress. The employees have been placed under suspension pending launching of appropriate aclon against them by their employers.

Inadequate air services in Rajasthan

2487. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the major constraints in attracting larga number of foreign tourists in Rajasthan is inadequacy of air services in that State;

(b) if so, whether Government hava taken any decision so far to provide air linkages to (i) Bombay, Surat, Sirohi, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, (ii) Delhi, Jhunjhnu, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur (iii) Delhi, Jaipur, Ajmer; and (iv) Udaipur, Ahmedabad, Bombay;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not reasons tharefor; and

(d) whether Government have so far, taken any action on Government of Rajasthan's repeated request foi upgrading air port facilities! at Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur, particularly, for raising Jaipur Airport's status as an "International Airport" if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and by when the decisi6n for modernisation/upgradation is likely to be taken by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Flights are operated by airlines depending upon availability of operating aircraft and crew, traffic demand and potential to sustain economically viable operations. At present Indian Airlinas are operating regular services for (i) Bombay-Jaipur (ii) Delhi-Jodhpur (iii) Delhi-Jaipur and (iv) Udaipur-Bombay sectors. There are no immediate plans to operate Indian Airlines flights to rest of the sectors.

(d) National Airports Authority hava plans to extend the runways at Jaipur and Udaipur to 7500ft and provide extension of Terminal buildings at Jaipur and Jodhpur. Besides, Jai-pur has been selected for upgradation as a model airport. There is no proposal at present to declare Jaipur as an international airport. The existing international airports at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Trivandrum are co'nsidered adequate to cater to the needs of international traffic.

Threat of strike by Flight Congress Association of Air India

2488. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Flight Congress Association have threatened to report to strike and absent from duty of Air India flights; and

(b) if so, what steps Govt, propose to take to avoid the disruption of flights of Air India?

THE, MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Flight Engineers Association representing flight engineers of Air India have launched an agitation since 27.2.93 for fulfilment of a number of their demands. As a result, nights of Air India operated by Boeing 747 and Airbus 300 aircraft have been disrupted. Flights of Airbus 310 aircraft, however, continue to operate as they do not require the services of flight engineers. Air India is making efforts *to* minimise inconvenience to passengers by transferring theme to flights of other international airlines. Efforts are also continuing to normalise the situation.

Introduction of Boeing services at Belgaum

2489. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have concluded that there is adequate traffic at Belgaum for introduction of Boeing services;

(b) whether the Indian Airlines have made a request to International Airport Authority to upgrade the Belgaum Airport; and

(c) whether the amount of Rs. 843 lakhs has been projected as estimated expenditure for the upgradation of Belgaum Airport, if so, what is the present position of the proposal and how much amount is released so far as Belgaum Airport upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Upgradation of Belgaum airport to make it suitable for Boeing operations is likely to cost about Rs. 17.5 crores. National Airports Authority has no proposal to undertake such an upgradation during the 8th Five Year Plan. National Airports Authority however, has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1.73 crores for resurfacing of the runway and associated pavements.

Start of Air services to districts of Maharashtra

2490. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA;

Will the Minster of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has urged the Central Government to restart air services of Vayudoot at Ratnagiri a rport with a view to opening up backward areas and development of ""star means of communication;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Maharashtra Government have requ ested to start the air services of Puna-Aurangabad.Nanded-Bombay and TMasik-Pune-Bombay routes; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to commercial and operational reasons at present Vayudoot is not in a position to start services on these routes.

Expenditure on Advertisements for Promotion of Tourism

2491. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: W'U the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: